

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC, Orland Police Cite Four Clerks For Selling Alcohol To Minors

ABC and Orland Police visit 24 stores in two cities

(Glenn County) - Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) along with Orland Police cited four clerks for selling alcohol to minors during a law enforcement operation in Glenn County. The actions were the result of a compliance check operation on March 19, 2006, in which minors under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from 24 retail licensees in the cities of Willows and Orland.

Three store clerks in Orland sold alcohol to a minor, one store clerk in Willows made an illegal alcohol sale. Investigators and police officers visited 14 locations in Orland and 10 in Willows.

Those who sold to the minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business's liquor license. That may include a fine, a suspension of the liquor license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

Under the Minor Decoy operation, the minor must be under the age of 20, must have the appearance of a minor, cannot wear clothes or jewelry that would make them look older, and must answer truthfully if asked their age.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 24 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.